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LETTERS OF WILLIAM BYRD, FIRST.

(From the Originals in the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society)

Concluded

To Perry and Lane

Virginia June 3d 1691

Gent:

I recd most (if not all) of yours this year with what youu w: I as morry were so considerable, since I could not have freight enough proportionall to answer itt, being I thinke very hardly used therein, you left itt wholly to P. P. who att first promised mee upward of 400 Hds in Porter & Allison. Some time after hee told mee, that I must not expect above 400. Accordingly I proceeded & bought Tobo but just as I had finished all, & was going to Towne, hee tells mee Harry Duke (1) had shewn him a letter & hee must have Some & Toppin more, therefore I must have but 350 Hds (besides bulke). After some words, I desired him to assure me of them, wch hee did, & I left notes att his house, as I went downe for twice that quantity, hee was not so kind all the while I was there to lett mee know ye contrary, when I could have hired a ship att £15:10 p tun, but last weeke (when the ships were goeing downe) hee gave mee an Accot that Allison had but 80 Hds & Porter 180 (2 whereof furres) besides bulke; by wch means. And these Masters (as well as those from Mr. North) cheating in their Ladeing by stowing away great quantitys in Bulke of their owne.

(1) Henry Duke, of James City County, who was appointed member of Council 1702, and died 1713.

I have ab^{t} 250 H^{ds} of New besides Some Old Tobacco left, I desire therefore that you positively order what freight I shall have (wch I expect may bee ab^{t} 500 H^{ds}) that I may not bee at ship uncertainty'e, and att every Ones disposeall: otherwise I desire you not to send mee above halfe the Goods wrote for, wch will bee then too much; I have sent you what skins & ffurres I had by mee (to help to clear Something) wch had been much more, had not the Indian trade been prohibited (all last winter). Now ye Assembly have laid itt open but wth so great an Imposition* on all commoditys of that sort, that I fear itt can never bee worth while onely those goods wee have by us must bee sold, I have sent for little but plains haveing sufficient of all ye rest by mee.

I desire you would Send me the furniture Sent for last year, & omitted I have Sent for a Considerable Cargo of English Goods, wch I desire if freight may bee had, & Tob^{o} like to doe anything; I suppose what Sent you this year may prove weighty & good, hope itt may answer Something.

If you have an Oppertunity I desire you to send 3 or 4 halfe tunes of Rheinsh wine from Rotterdam, for that I had two years Since from Mr Senserf proved So well, that I have been desired by Severall to procure Some as good.

How far our New Law about Townes may Affect trade I cannot yett guess, wee must expect ye confirmation of itt from England, & then I believe Some of the Ports may come in a little time to Something; Some time Since I rec^{d} yours by Emberly & should have been glad to have Seen my Acco^{t} wch I yett daily expect.

I returne you many thankes for your care of my Child^{n} & hope you'l indeavor to put out the Girls for their most advantage wth out any unnecessary charge; & for my Son I hope hee may bee so imployed, as (at least) not to loosse anything hath been bestowed on him. I cannot advise att

(2) Act of Assembly, April, 1991. See Hening's *Statutes at Large of Virginia*, III, 63.

this distance, but desire hee want nothing (in reason) for his necessary accomplishm^{t}.

I am Oblidged to you for your care ab^{t} ye Aud^{rs} place, & I hope you'l put itt out of dispute. My Ld Effingham, Mr Blaithwait & Mr Povey haveing assured mee of their assistance therein, hope now you'l effect itt and not lett mee lye open to every one that will bid mony for itt.

Newham promised mee to take in four H^{ds} of skins & ffurres, but after I had Sent them downe (hee being full) to Point Comfort, and I suppose they are on board the Wolfe, Capt. Geo. Purvis, Capt. Perry designes downe, hope hee'l take bills of Ladeing or a rec^{t} for them, ye contents inclosed, there is allso Eight H^{ds} on board Hogben, God Send all well to you: What farther offers shall write by the fleet therefore wth blessing to ye Child^{n}, due respects to all friends I take leave

Gen^{t}
Yo^{rs}

W. B.

Pray Send us a Considerable Quantity of Salt if possible & remember Paper for wee are in great want

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To ———

Virg^{a} June the 4th 1691

S^{r}

This I hope will come Safe to hand by the Resolution wth 4 H^{ds} Raw skins, 208 Hogs^{hds} of Tob^{o} in Caske, besides 51 in Bulke to bee divided Vizt. the ship to have two thirds & you 1-3 clear, to bee equally parted for quality in ye s^{d} Proportions. The Bulke I could not expect much from, but however the 1-3 comeing fraight free, I thought might yield Something, better then lye here and rott, the Tob^{o} in Caske I hope will prove well & weighty. I had not that quantity of skins & furs as usual, trade being Stopt all last winter, and now its open, a great imposition is laid on

all Such Commodity's as are transported, wch I doubt will put a damp on ye trade. I thanke you for takeing mee So much fraight, but could have wished (though you Sent ye Charter pty's to mee) you had not Ordered away most of ye ffraight to others, Sikes takeing mee in but 70 od & Ware but 55, the former (they say) is a very rotten tool. I spared on your request so much of the fraight, that I have now 250 H^{ds} left on my hands, & could not give Satisfaction neither; therefore its mine as well as their desires that you would Secure every mans fraight certain (except Small quantitys wch may not be worth while) I hope you'l Secure mee for owne p'per use att Least 300 H^{ds} & if you can wth convenience you may adde another 100, I doubt not the complyance.

I have Sent for a Considerable Quantity of English Goods, allso Some apparell & Houshold Stuffe &c for my Selfe wch I hope (if goods gett well home) you'l comply wth & send wth ye furniture Omitted last year, by Some good ship.

Col. Xpher Wormeley (3) (who marryd Col^{o} Carters widow) designes to write to you, & hold a correspondence. I encouraged him, & promised to intimate the Same to you, I hope hee nor you will have occasion to complain thereof.

Inclosed is allso an Invoice from H. Gauler, & another friend of yours wch I desire you to Send by the first conveniency as directed.

I would allso desire you to Send mee to bee left att James City att Mr Gaulers 20 or 30 doz of Clarett or other fashionable wine thats very Good, 6 doz Canary, 6 doz of Cherry & 6 doz of Rhenish, wt^{h} one Q^{r}ter Caske of Brandy & 6 grs good Pipes:

I wish all things may come Safe & find you, your Lady & all friends in health; wee have (after a confused manner) in a hurry returned your token, you may charge mee those

(3) Christopher Wormeley, of Middlesex County, appointed member of Council 1683, and died 1701. The wife referred to was Elizabeth, daughter of Raleigh Travers, of Lancaster County, and widow of John Carter, Jr., of "Corotoman," in the same county. For note on Christopher Wormeley, see this Magazine, VII, 284, 285.

that have not pd their part & give mee an Acco^{t} thereof
My humble Service to all friends. I am

S^{r}

Yo^{r} Humble Servt

W. B.

Send mee a box of Smoaking Tobacco

To Mr. North

Virginia June the 8th, 1691

S^{r}

This Serves to cover the inclosed bill of Lading for 76 H^{ds} Tob^{o} of my owne, four of Mr Secretary's Coles & 2 of young Thom Cockes, I wish all Safe to you, my Service to all friends. I am

S^{r}

Yo^{r} Humble Servant

W. B.

To Mr North P Sikes
in ye Phoenix

To Philip Ludwell

Virg^{a} June ye 8th 1691

Hon^{d} S^{r}

I recd the favo^{r} of one from you Since you being in London, where I hope you injoy your health and all satisfaction. Wee have (I thanke God) been hitherto att peace, onely a great many little intrigues carryed on in our late assembly. An Acco^{t} of their proceedings (both touching the Colledge & other affairs) I doubt not but you'l receive att Large from others, there was an address design'd, that no person should bee capeable of holding any Office in this Government, unless hee were an inhabitant of the Same, whither it reflected on Mr Culpeper (4) or not I cannot tell, but it was

(4) "Mr. Culpeper" was Alexander Culpeper, Surveyor General of Virginia, who had been long resident in England.

quashed, & so its no great matter, theres now a resolve to settle the Bounds along ye main Blacke water, & So up to ye Appomatox Indian Towne & so to ye Monacan Towne, wch will cut of Some plantations allready Seated, & hinder the Surveyors Something, but I suppose those bounds will not continue Long, Mr James Blair, Com'^{ry}, our Minister comes home ab^{t} ye Colledge, & the other affairs are refer'd to Mr Jeffry's; please to give my humble service to all friends, & if Leasure will permit favo^{r} mee wth a line or two as occasion offers I am

Hon^{d} S^{r}

Yo^{r} faithfull Humble Servt

W. B.

To Col^{o} Ludwell und^{r} Covert E

To Mr. Methwold

Virg^{a} June ye 8th 1691

Hon^{d} S^{r}

I recd the favor of yours in my L^{ds} Pacquett, for wch I returne you hearty thankes & wish it were in my power to Serve you according to my desire: I have been from Home ere Since the beginning of Aprill but shall indeavo^{r} to provide all ye Stones & Seeds formerly omitted wth a fresh Supply of those formerly Sent, except the Sassafras wch my being abroad lost ye Season of Saveing the Seeds. If I could get a winter Passage I should hope they would doe much better; w^{ch} (God willing) s^{h}all indeavour: please to give my humble Service to yor Lady and all those I had ye hono^{r} to bee acquainted wth at Hale House, & please to accept ye Same from

Hon^{d} S^{r}

Yo^{r} most Oblidged Humble Servant

W B

To Mr Methwold p Comadore

To Lord Effingham

Virginia June ye 9th 1691

My L^{d}

I recd the hono^{r} of yor Exclcys of ye 26th of Fb^{r} & returne your L^{d}ship my hearty thanks, for your kind acceptance of my indeavours to Serve yor Exlncy for wch I have all the obligations imaginable. I have inclosed Sent yor Excellency p Ex^{ch} yor Salary till Lady day last as allso halfe the years House rent (the other p^{d} to ye Lt Govern^{r}) wth what else is come to my hands, yor L^{d}ships Acco^{t} is inclosed: by wch your Excellency may see what I have recd from ye Collecto^{rs} for ye rents I answer for 10 Countys. Col^{o} Cole Warwicke & Elizabeth City, Hee & Col^{o} Bacon for Isle of Wight, Col^{o} Bacon for Yorke, Hee & Col^{o} Page for N. Kent, & Col^{o} Page for James City, who have or will Acco^{t} to yor Excellency themselves as they say. Of £170 od mony charged on the Navy last year, they have promised to pay £103:06:10 but refused the rest, itt being for Clothing to ye Seamen &c. & the men (they Say) pd of ere the Acco^{t} came Home: Since wch the Dunbarton being found altogether unfit for Service, is laid up & some of her old Rigging Sold as much as amounts to £83:11:01 wch mony by Order of ye Lt Govern^{r} & Councell is paid to mee in Order to reimburse their Majesty's revenue here, I have not brought the s^{d} mony to Acco^{t} not haveing any certainty ye 1st p^{t} is pd, & expect farther Order ab^{t} ye Last; I shall not trouble yor Excellency wth the Matters of Government, nor proceedings of the Assembly Since your L^{d}ship will have all att Large. I beg your L^{d}ships pardon for this wide letter being Straitned in Time some of the Collecto^{rs} Acco^{ts} comeing in but yesterday, & too morrow being appointed for ye fleet to Sail.

I humbly beg the continuance of yor L^{d}ship's favour & returne my hearty thankes for yor Excellencys kindness in

Always business. I kiss your L^{d}ships Hands & wth the utmost respect take leave.

My L^{d}

Yo^{r} Exlncys most Oblidged & humbly
devoted Servt

W. B

To my Ld Effingham

To Mr. Povey

Virginia June ye 9th 1691

S^{r}

I recd the favo^{r} of yours of ye 25 Novemb^{r} & according to yor desire have Sent my former Acc^{t} drawne up after the first method, wth those warrants you returned mee, now (I hope) Sufficiently pfect, by the indorsements.

I have allso, by this Conveyance, Sent my last years Acco^{ts} to Mr Blathwait wherein I have continued the Same Method, & there being no Article in ye discharge but what hath ever been usuall, I hope that will take up Little of their L^{d}ships time to Passe itt. I have returned all the Warrants, they are all indorsed except my Ld Effinghams, Mr Blathwaits & your owne:

I desire to bee Satisfyed whither the Goven^{r} or Comander in chiefs Warrant to mee for payment of any mony's here out of their Ma^{tys} Revenue, may not bee Sufficient to justify mee (provided I bona fide pay the Same) Since by the Comission the Govern^{r} is impower'd to dispose of ye Revenue; & I thinke if hee passes a Warrant, I ought not to dispute itt, However I desire your advice therein.

I hope you will continue yor kindness in assisting to settle the matter about Mr Ayleway, that there may bee no farther dispute.

Inclosed is two bills of Ex^{ch}, One for £100 yor Salary, & the other for £20 wch I hope will bee pd accordingly. If wee have not a more considerable fleet next year then this there will bee much Tob^{o} left in the Country, & this Revenue will not bee able to Support the Government.

As oppertunity p'mits, I beg the favour of a Line or two on all Occasions, & that you would please to hint what was done in Mr Auditor Bacons Accot wch I wrote to you about at Large of in my Last, I hope then to hear of the Passing of my Accots. I shall not trouble you farther att present, but wth humble Service take Leave.

Sr

Yor Oblidged Humble Servant

WILLIAM B

To Mr Povey

To Mr. Blathwayt

Virginia June the 9th 1691

Hond Sr

This serves to accompany Last years Accot wth the Warrants for payment of what I have discharged my selfe by, & presume there bee no great dispute in any of those Articles, being onely what is usuall

I red a letter from ye Navy Office wherein they promise to allow in pte of ye bill on them £103:06:10: but the remainder being £66:16:3 for Cloths for ye Seamen belonging to ye Deptford Ketch they refuse by reason the men were pd of ere the accot came to hand; When I recd itt I dispatched it by the first conveyance, wch was by the fleet last year. The Dunbarton hath had Severall Surveys on her, & is found unfitt for their Maytys Service, & therefore ordered to bee laid up, as you will find by the Orders of Councill. There was Some Old Rigging &ca Sold, that formerly belonged to ye Dunbarton the mony was put into my Hands, & amounts to £83:11:01: wch will o're pay the Sum the Navy is indebted to their Majesty's Revenue here, And Since here was nothing intended but what was for yr Matys immediate Service, I hope the Rt Honble the Comrs of ye Navy will allow the Same.

I have Setled the accot of Quitrents, & added what Compositions are come to hand, & Some Small fines, In the

main the Q^{t}rents are advanced considerably, & hope will more & more, as a true Rent Roll can bee gitt in.

Inclosed is Ex^{ca} for your Salary the last year, wch I hope will be pd accordingly.

I shall not give you farther trouble, but beg the continuance of your favours, I kiss your hands & take leave.

Hon^{d} S^{r}

Yo^{r} Oblidged & Humbly devoted Servt

W B

To m^{r} Blathwait

To the Commissioners of the Navy

Virg^{a} June ye 9th 1691

R^{t} Honble

I recd the favo^{r} of yours of the 31th of Novr last, And am sorry yor hon^{rs} are pleased to dispute that part of my bill relateing to the Cloths Supplyed to Seamen belonging to their Majesty's Ketch the Deptford, Since it was wholy designed for their Majesty's Service, & when the Acco^{ts} came to my hands, I forthwith Sent them with ye first Conveyance; Since wch Their Majesty's ship the Dunbarton haveing been found (by Severall Surveys that have been made on board her) alltogether unfit for Service is ordered to bee Laid up, & Some old Rigging &c^{a} belonging to her being Sold, I have re^{d} bills for £83:11:01 Out of wch I hope you'l please to reimburse their Majestys Revenue here; And the overplus shall bee readily Accompted for what is done was by order of their Maj^{tys} Lt Govern^{r} & Councill

I am

R^{t} Honble

Yo^{r} Hono^{rs} most Humble

& Obedient Servt

W B Aud^{r}

To ye R^{t} Honble Com^{rs} of
their Majestys Navy

To Mr. Harpur

Virg^{a} June ye 9th 1691

S^{r}

I wrote to you last year by m^{r} Sheerwood & gave you what Acco^{t} I could of yor business, am Sorry it was no better; hee made mee propositions this year about Tobacco but haveing no advice from you, I dare not meddle in itt, for unless you could Secure fraight Tobacco would bee of no use, I wish you would imploy Somebody else in this affair who lives more convenient then I. m^{r} Sheerwood hath had £5 already of mee in that affair hee is well acquainted wth the matter & lives much more convenient.

I am sorry I have put you to so much charge to so little purpose haveing been out £7 & 1 Hogh^{d} Tobacco, wch I may bee ashamed to aske haveing Scarce better'd your Cause a farthing: However (if you thinke good) Send what you please in to mee, in wine, to drinke yours & all our friends good healths; If eather in this or anything else I can Serve you May Comand

Yo^{r} friend & Servt

W B

Service to all att ye Clubb
To m^{r} Harpur

To Perry and Lane

James City in Virg^{a} June ye 9th 1691

Gen^{t}

This Serves chiefly to accompany the bills of Ex^{ca} herewth inclosed amounting to their are many very Small the Collect^{rs} not dareing to trust the Masters, & take their bills Some haveing Sufferd thereby allready, therefore its but reasonable that all owners & merch^{ts} that hire ships, should give them letters of Creditt for their Clearing & necessary charges, otherwise I know no man here hath reason to bee their Security, Since if the ship miscarrys they are like to Suffer, Neither Ought the Masters to have

the allowance of the 10 p C^{t} unless hee can give his owne or acceptable bills of Ex^{ca} for his Ladeing, & I hope you'l indeavour itt: Below is an Acco^{t} of what bills charged on you, all wch I would have you charge to ye Audito^{rs} Acco^{t} except y^{e} £20 to m^{r} Povey, wch charge to my p'ticular, the fleet designed to Saile too morrow, & I fear my letters may bee late, therefore shall not inlarge, but wth due respects to all friends I remain

Gen^{t}

Yo^{r} Humble Servt

	£		
To m^{r} James Blair	200	..	..
To ye Lt Govern^{r}	341	10	..
To my Ld Effingham	670	00	7
To m^{r} Blaithwait	100	00	00
To m^{r} Povey	100	00	00
To m^{r} Stephen ffarrar	5	..	..
To ye Lt Govern^{r} more	14	..	..
	1430	10	7
To m^{r} Povey	20	..	..

If possible procure mee an ingenious Youth that writes well from ye Hospitall

W B

Remember mee a Box Smoaking Tobacco (5)

To Messrs Perry & Lane, a Duplicate
one p Comadore & one p

To Perry and Lane

James City in Virginia June ye 10th 1691

Gen^{t}

This onely to be left wth m^{r} Secretary Coles (who if any more bills of Ex^{ca} for mee comes to his hand ere the fleet

(5) It seems curious that any one in Virginia should order smoking tobacco from England; but it was doubtless prepared there in a way to make it more agreeable than the unprepared leaf.

Sails) hath promised to inclose them herein to you. I wrote last night & Sent those I had, I wish all (designed) well to you. My Service to all friends. I am

Gen^{t}

Yo^{r} Humble Servt

W B

To Messrs Perry & Lane

To Stephanus Van Cortlandt,(6) New York

Virg^{a} Augst ye 3^{d} 1691

Hon^{d} S^{r}

The great Civilitys I recd from you dureing my Stay at N Yorke have incouraged mee to trouble you herewith wch I hope yor goodness will excuse, I would beg ye favo^{r} of yo^{u} (if yor convenience & a Safe conveyance will permit) to purchase for mee Some Wampum to ye Value of 50 or 60^{t} Lt^{g} ab^{t} 2-3 in black ye other in white, to large, even, & well Strung, & please to Send it to mee in James River, if no ships come So high as my habitation let them leave itt att James Towne, or wth our Lt Govern^{r}: I will thankfully repay you for ye same by bills of Ex^{ca} for London, wch I will return to you, or deliver them to yor Order here, or pay our Lt Govr wch may bee most for yor Convenience, wch I hope you'l not Question Our Govern^{r} hath Spoke to mee to inquire after two Indians wch came from you a man and a woman wch I have, & understand they were in the farthest part of the Tuskerora Country, ab^{t} 300 miles fro' hence I shall Send that way Some time this moneth, & have ingaged my traders (if possible wth any reasonable charge to

(6) Stephanus Van Cortlandt (1643–1700) was one of the most eminent men of the Colony of New York. He was probably Mayor of New York during Byrd's visit, as well as a momber of the Governor's Council. The Livingston referred to was, no doubt, Robert Livingston (1654–1725), also a very prominent man. The Schuyler of Albany was Peter Schuyler (1657–1724), first mayor of that city.

Most of the New Yorkers named did a large Indian trade, and could therefore procure wampum. Byrd, evidently, deemed this the best currency for use by his traders who were going to the Cherokee country.

redeem), wch they have promised to doe, & doe not question itt, unles they are gone to a Nation ab^{t} 100 miles farther, to w^{ch} (its S^{d}) they pretend to belong, Black wampum would oblidge Indians more than anything, wch wee want. However hope to retrieve them, though twill bee Something dearer English Goods being plenty amongst those Indians, S^{r} I beg you^{r} pardon for this trouble & if I can any way Serve you here please freely to command

Hon^{d} S^{r}

Yo^{r} most Humble Servt

W B

My Service to m^{r} Schuylers both at Yorke & Albany Allso to m^{r} Livingston & all fr'ds. If Gravenradt comes for our parts it will bee a most ready Conveyance. If I could procure a Pipe of good Madera (for my Selfe) any under £15 St^{g} itt would bee wellcome & if yor convenience p'mits please to Send mee one, & I will pay you by Ex^{ca} as above

Please to returne mee a line or two by the Messenger

W B

To Stephanas Van Cortland, Esqr N Yorke

To ——, New York

Virg^{a} Augst ye 3^{d} 1691

S^{r}

Yo^{rs} to m^{r} Secretary Cole by John Perry wth the Indian came Safe, And according to yor demand I am Ordered by the Lt Govr & Councell to returne you the S^{d} Sum by bills of Ex^{ca} wch are inclosed, & if the like occasion should happen that I could Serve you here I should very readily doe itt, & shall bee willing on all occasions to shew my Selfe

S^{r}

Yo^{r} ready friend to Serve you

W B

I returne you & your wife (to whom my Love & respects) thankes for ye great civility's I rec^{d} at yor house in N Yorke

W B

TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA?

May it please yor Exlncy

Last night Yarborough came to my house & gave mee an acco^{t} that pursuant to the Orders they had re'd, they went toward the Toteroes but comeing to ye Nottoway river they found the waaters so high they could not passe, wherefore they Sent Pansioela to the Totero's to acquaint that others were there wth the Boy, & On friday night (the Kings Son of ye Toteros) One Saponee: wth Nomterccola ye great man of ye great man of ye came to them, & recd the Boy with great Satisfaction, they pretend they would have come in & pd their tribute at Towne, but that they were uncertain of ye time, but promise to bring it in next Gen^{ll} Court; Nantuccola seems to Speake Suspiciously of them, y^{t} if they had not speedily recd their boy, Some mischief would have follow'd, but affirmes that neither Saponees nor Toleros, had lately been near the English, they haveing been a considerable time all at home till about tuesday last, when most of the Toteras went (as they Said) a hunting on the South Side Maherin River, Neither Saponees nor Torteras have of late years planted any Corne, till this year, & now they have a considerable quantity of rare ripe corne growing. So that on the whole matter what to guesse I know not unlesse the Senecas have been sculking about ye English plantations to looke for ye Appomatocks, If so I suppose they are gone of on Sight of our Rangers, shall not trouble yor Exlncy farther, but humbly take leave & remain

My L^{d}

Yo^{r} Exlnay's humble & Obedient Servt

W B

(Concluded)